

# Mississippi Asthma Disparities

Health Disparities are differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of diseases and other adverse health conditions that exist among specific population groups in the United States (National Institutes of Health, 1999).



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## DISPARITIES IN ASTHMA BURDEN

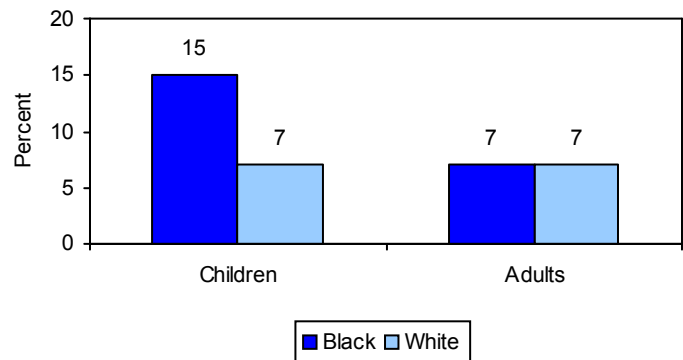
**In 2006, 10% of Mississippi children and 7% of Mississippi adults had asthma.**

### RACIAL DISPARITIES IN ASTHMA BURDEN

Black children ages 0-17 are more than twice as likely as white children to have asthma. In 2006, 15% of black children had asthma, compared to 7% of white children.

Burden of asthma is equal among black and white Mississippi adults ages 18 and above. In 2006, 7% of both white and black adults had asthma.

Current Childhood Asthma Prevalence by Race, Mississippi, 2006

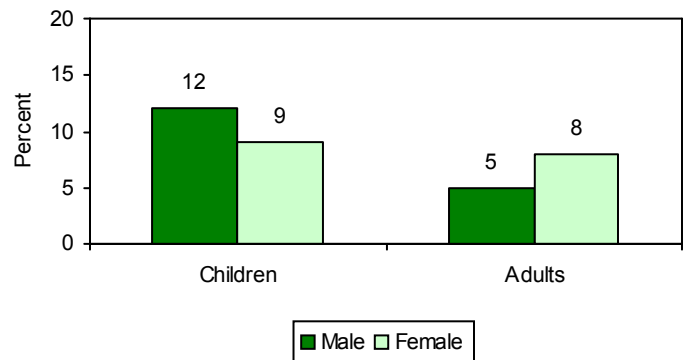


### GENDER DISPARITIES IN ASTHMA BURDEN

In children, asthma burden is higher among boys than girls. In 2006, 12% of boys had asthma, compared to 9% of girls.

In adults, burden is higher among women. In 2006, 8% of women had asthma, compared to 5% of men.

Current Childhood Asthma Prevalence by Gender, Mississippi, 2006



### SOCIOECONOMIC DISPARITIES IN ASTHMA BURDEN

Asthma burden is higher among adults who did not graduate from high school. In 2006, 10% of adults who did not graduate from high school had asthma, compared to 6% of high school graduates.

Asthma burden is higher among poor Mississippians. In 2006, 10% of adults living in households with income less than \$25,000 had asthma, compared to 5% of adults living in households with income greater than or equal to \$25,000.

**Childhood asthma burden is highest among boys and Black children.**

**Adult asthma burden is highest among women, adults who did not graduate from high school, and adults who live in households with income less than \$25,000.**

# Mississippi Asthma Disparities

Access to quality care is important to eliminate health disparities and increase the quality and years of healthy life for all persons in the United States (Healthy People 2010)



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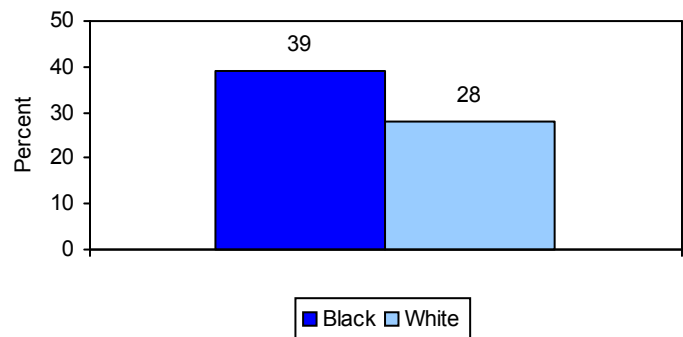
## DISPARITIES IN ACCESS TO AND USE OF ASTHMA HEALTH CARE

In 2005, there were 13,000 Emergency Department (ED) visits for asthma in Mississippi.

### RACIAL DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE ACCESS

More black than white Mississippi adults with asthma cannot see a doctor because of cost. In 2006, 39% of black adults with asthma reported that they could not see a doctor because of cost, compared to 28% of white adults.

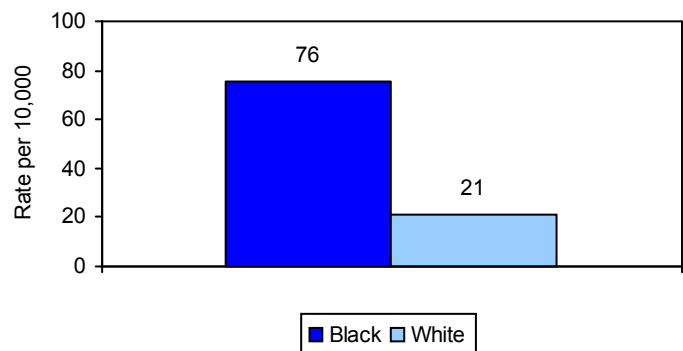
Adults with Asthma who Could Not See a Doctor  
Because of Cost, Mississippi, 2006



### RACIAL DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE USE

Black Mississippians are more than three times as likely as white Mississippians to visit the ED for asthma care. In 2005, 76 out of every 10,000 black Mississippians visited the ED for asthma, compared to 21 out of every 10,000 white Mississippians.

Asthma ED Visits per 10,000 Population,  
Mississippi, 2005



### GENDER DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE USE

Among Mississippi children ages 0-14, boys are more likely than girls to visit the ED for asthma.

Among Mississippians ages 15 and above, women are more likely than men to visit the ED for asthma.

### HOW CAN WE REDUCE DISPARITIES IN ASTHMA ED VISITS?

To reach Mississippians with asthma who use the ED for asthma care, the Mississippi State Department of Health and the American Lung Association of Mississippi created F.L.A.R.E., a standard asthma hospital discharge protocol. F.L.A.R.E includes asthma education and medication adherence instructions. Hospitals should use F.L.A.R.E to improve asthma self-management skills and reduce ED visits for asthma. For more information about F.L.A.R.E, contact Laurie Moore, Mississippi State Department of Health, at 601-576-7415 or [laurie.moore@msdh.state.ms.us](mailto:laurie.moore@msdh.state.ms.us).